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ABSTRACT

This book addresses the subject of environmental education in the context of educational and social change. It focuses on the synthesis of action research and community problem solving in the context of education. The result, Action Research and Community Problem Solving (ARCPS), can be defined as a process that enables students and teachers to participate more fully in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of educational activities aimed at resolving an issue that the learners have identified. This handbook is divided into four parts, each one designed to provide specific information on an aspect of the theory and practice of ARCPS. Part I discusses the need for an educational system that prepares children for a rapidly changing world and introduces the philosophy, theory, and methodology of the ARCPS process as a way to address this need. Part II offers four case studies of innovative educational programs that use elements of ARCPS in different educational settings. Part III provides guidance for planning, implementing, and evaluating an ARCPS project in the classroom, and includes suggestions on ways to reinforce this learning and disseminate these ideas. Part IV contains group process and skill-developing activities useful to learners working together in the investigation of the environment. (JRH)

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